



RUSSIAN IN CHINA.

In these stirring times at Peking, when the great Empress of China comes in contact, there is a large extent of territory which is in dispute between the two countries. The dispute is made to involve them in war. In itself the war would not be regarded as of much importance, but it attracts attention in English political circles, among your own considerations concerning interests in India. An English authority has recently described Russia as "poised on the higher level of continental Asia, near the rest of the world, now inclining her weight towards the Bosphorus, and now to the ascendancy of the Chinese port of the Pacific." Antecedents to the territory, where she would now exert her claims and possessing all the passes of the great mountain range, Russia would hold all the shores of central Asia." It is this that attracts the attention of England, and through English sources we know that large bodies of Russian troops are being massed at Kalgan, and that a conflict with the Chinese will be the probable result.

It must be admitted that the Chinese, of all other people, have cause for apprehension.

The dispute with Russia arose in this way. While China was weak in 1851, with suppression of the Taiping rebellion, the Russian government adopted a project of maintaining order on the northwestern frontier, which opened Kalgan, a gateway of a wedge-like form, which connects the passes and gives them a communication at the northwest angle of the Chinese empire. The importance of the passes is very great, both in regard to the means of introducing invaders and the means of dispersing the Chinese government. An eminent writer, Major Clarke, describes the project thus: "Situated at the northwestern corner of the central plateau, at the point where the Kalgan passes has served as a resting place for ages for those who, in their migrations, embarks and departs spread over centuries from an important chapter in the world's history." Striving, by artifice, gain, possession of this important point of vantage, Russia has refused to surrender it. At first it was urged in the St. Petersburg government that Russia should be intrusted for the care of maintaining order by the Russian occupation of Kalgan. A Chinese ambassador was sent to St. Petersburg to arrange for the terms and payment of the indemnity. To the amazement of the cultured world, the ambassador consented to sign an agreement to cede Kalgan to Russia. There was intense excitement in Peking and the ambassador was recalled and degraded. The partly formed treaty was repudiated by the Chinese government, and its articles were at one time threatened with decapitation. It is to settle the prolonged dispute that Russia is now preparing to strike a blow at China. Russian troops are being massed on the northwestern frontier, and Russian naval preparations in the Pacific are being actively pushed. All these movements are being watched by Great Britain, with a jealous eye. London newspapers contain long discussions upon them, and upon the probable results.

But China seems to be resolved still not to surrender her sovereignty of the province in dispute, and is to be making preparations to meet Russian aggression. If war breaks out, it will be conducted upon the remote frontier of two vast empires, and the forces employed probably will not be very numerous. Still, the contest will be watched with a good deal of interest from all parts of the world. This movement is understood in England to be the warning wedge to the development of Russian policy in China, and therefore is regarded as of great probable importance to the future of other nations, besides those immediately involved.

PUBLIC LAND SURVEYS.

It is somewhat interesting to look over the pages of the report of the commissioners of the general land office, and find out how much unappropriated land is yet in the United States, and where the principal work is being done. During the year ended June 30, 1860, only 502,411 acres had been surveyed in Montana, while in California 3,392,690 acres were surveyed, or more than ten times as many. Next to California, most of the surveying was done last year in Colorado—2,775,303 acres. Next in order came Dakota, then New Mexico, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Nebraska. The total number of acres surveyed last year amounts to 15,830,233.

Alaska was counted out, in which there has not yet been an acre surveyed, if it would seem, though a half of the public domain that lies in the twenty-eight states and territories to which the public surveys have been applied has already been surveyed. Of these, the survey of eleven states has been completed, and of those where the survey is unfinished, leaving out Alaska, Montana has the largest amount of unsurveyed land of any of the states or territories. Dakota comes next, and Arizona and New Mexico follow close after. Up to the past year more than half of the area of California was unsurveyed, and not much more than a third of Colorado is surveyed. Of Nevada not more than one-half is yet surveyed. The survey of Kansas is completed, but that of Nebraska is unfinished, though it contains less unsurveyed land than Florida. Kansas has still 1,110,292 acres unsurveyed. There is a vast amount of work yet to be done in our western territories before land is ready for occupation by immigration. The surveys in the territories are progressing much too slowly for the convenience of the settlers.

The general government is bound by its engagement to the railroad companies to have the lands surveyed in advance of the line of occupation and construction. This has not been done in any case. But the harvest burden for this project falls upon the settlers, who, stricken with doubt and disappointment, for years over their lines, make weary and costly pilgrimages to the land offices, get into quarrels and lawsuits over their boundaries, and pay in interest, taxes, and the value of their lands before they get any title at all. It would cost no more, and save much expense, to the frontier settlers if the public surveys were pushed forward more rapidly, and always kept in advance of settlement.

Concerning gunshot wounds in the River the Medical and Surgical History of the Rebellion, compiled in the official surgeon general of the United States army, furnishes some interesting facts, though taken in connection with the wound from which President Lincoln is suffering, they are not encouraging. It is stated that during the war gunshot wounds of the liver were usually followed by extravasation into the abdominal cavity and rapidly fatal peritonitis. Of 32 cases in which the diagnosis was unquestionable all but four terminated fatally. It may be seen, on the other hand, that one of the cases of recovery described that of President Lincoln, in the following extract through the ever present columns of the *Times*. There seems to be little difference in the severity of the wound in the two cases, but the manner of the wound in the president's case, it is probable, may have had a great deal to do with the result. The author of the extract before the reader can be quoted at length, as follows:

"The bullet passed through the liver, and

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